UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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DP/PROJECTS/2720
(ZAM/77/010)
11 January 1980

ENGLISH ONLY

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA

Assistance to the Department of Census and Statistics
(ZAM/77/010)

Report of the Administrator

Date of present approval:	January 1978
Starting date of project activities:	January 1978
Planned completion date:	December 1981
To be executed by:	United Nations
Government implementing agency:	Department of Census and Statistics
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$ 633 500
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. The Department of Census and Statistics, which forms part of the National Commission for Development Planning, is responsible for the collection, processing and dissemination of all centralized statistical information. The responsibility for developing the statistical system to meet the growing needs of the country and achieving and maintaining international standards is vested in the Department of Census and Statistical Office, the other part being the Data Processing Centre, equipped with an IBM 370 system. The goal of centralization of the statistical service has been taken a step further by the creation of a unified statistical service in the Government, bringing all statistical activities and personnel under the control and supervision of the Director, Central Statistical Office.

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2. The present strength of the supporting, sub-professional staff of the Department of Census and Statistics and the ministerial statistical units is about 300. At the beginning of 1975, only a handful of them were found to have had any previous training in data collection and handling procedures. Therefore, since the quality of statistical services depends, to a considerable extent, on the technical capabilities of the supporting staff, it was decided to organize, as part of the United Nations project activities, under a preceding project with UNDP assistance (ZAM/72/016)[1] a series of in-service training programmes at the primary and intermediate levels. The need for continuation of technical assistance from the United Nations/UNDP arises because of, among other things, the lack of qualified Zambian statisticians in adequate numbers and the fact that the CSO has on its staff a number of Zambian graduates in the category of 'statistical technicians', who need to be brought up to the level of 'statistical analysts' before they can be entrusted responsibilities for special fields. Moreover, with the increased emphasis on planned development and application of modern methods of management the demands on the CSO have increased considerably over the last few years. The Zambian professional staff who have taken up responsibilities recently will need the guidance and advice of senior advisers for some time to come, to ensure the continuous flow of reliable and up-to-date information.

II. Objectives and activities

3. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) continue the in-service training programmes started under the previous project (ZAM/72/016) for sub-professional staff of the Department of Census and Statistics; (b) extend the in-service training to include seminars/workshops in selected fields of interest and relevance to the activities of the Department and to serve as training opportunities for the Zambian professionals in the statistical service; (c) co-operate in the organization of professional training in statistics beyond the first academic degree (B.Sc) level at the University of Zambia; (d) continue and complete the process of implementing the revised system of national accounts and provide on-the-job training to the Zambian statisticians in the section; (e) assist in planning, processing and analysing the annual censuses of commercial farms and sample survey of non-commercial farms and plan and assist in conducting the census of agriculture, 1980-81; and (f) complete the work on the industrial monographs and production capacity survey and impart training in the work relating to industrial statistics. To this end the national and international staff working together will (a) train Zambian officials at the primary level, 60 Zambian officials at the intermediate level, and conduct seminars in specialized areas for professional staff; (b) provide preliminary estimates in national accounts for the period 1977-1979, monographs on national accounts for the years 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1975 and organize seminars on national accounts; (c) complete reports on the annual census of commercial farms, 1971-72 to 1975-76, and conduct the census of agriculture, 1980-81; (d) prepare monographs on the industries(metal products, machinery and transport equipment, electricity and water supply, construction and mining and quarrying, 1978-1979), a survey of production capacity, 1979, a census of production, 1976 1977, and an index of industrial production, 1978-1979.

III. Inputs

4. UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency, for: the services of one project co-ordinator and training and development adviser, one agricultural statistics adviser and one national accounts adviser; and fellowships in national accounts and agricultural statistics.

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[1] DP/L.274 (Vol.II), p.80.

5. The Government will, through its Department of Census and Statistics, provide all the necessary counterpart facilities including adequate budgetary allocations to enable the Zambian staff to completely take over the functions of the United Nations advisers by the end of the project.

IV. Financial data

6. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

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Personnel	614 800
Training	16 700
Miscellaneous	2 000
	633 500

7. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $200,000 in kind.

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